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LITTLE LIE DETECTORS
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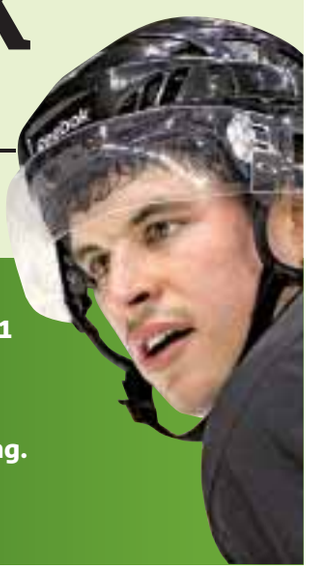
SETBACK
SIDNEY CROSBY SIDELINED AGAIN — INDEFINITELY {page 17}



LONDON metro®
Tuesday, December 13, 2011
www.metronews.ca
News worth sharing.

▶ Eric Prendergast of Toronto, left, and Shakir Fadlmula of London — both of whom volunteer with the Regional HIV/AIDS Connection — haul Christmas goodies down King Street yesterday before the group's holiday party. The presents were distributed to clients.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Christmas can't be far away

Some surgeries a longer wait: Study

▶ London lagging province in some medical wait times ▶ But LHSC official says providing fast treatment is a key initiative

ANGELA MULLINS
@METRONEWS.CA

While wait times for a variety of surgeries at London Health Sciences Centre are longer than the provincial average, the hospital is improving, an executive said yesterday.

Brian Orr, vice-president for cancer care, said the issue is "top of mind" for LHSC officials. "We had some of the longer wait times in some areas, and we still do have some fairly long wait times," Orr said as the Fraser Institute released a report crediting Ontario with the shortest surgical wait time of all the provinces.

The Fraser Institute says the wait between referral by a GP and receiving treatment is 14.3 weeks in Ontario. But it notes that's up from 14 weeks in 2010.

Ontario had the shortest wait times between referral by a GP and consultation with a specialist, at 7.2 weeks, and between specialist consultation and treatment, at 7.1 weeks.

The median wait time for Canadians seeking surgical or other treatment was 19 weeks in 2011, the longest wait time since 1993. The report notes that, in 2011, the average wait for an appointment with a specialist after referral was 156 per cent longer than in 1993.

"Canadians are being forced to wait almost four and a half months, on average, to receive surgical care," said Mark Rovere, a co-author of the report. "Despite significant increases in government health spending, Canadians are still waiting too long to access medically necessary treatment."

Among the various specialties, the shortest total wait was for medical oncology, at 4.2 weeks, while the wait for plastic surgery was longest, at 41.6 weeks.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Just you wait

- **In an analysis of wait times for 58** medical procedures, LHSC ranked longer than the provincial average in 23 cases and shorter in nine. Data for the 26 other procedures was unavailable because the centre's hospitals perform few or none of the treatments.
- **Treatments with the longest wait times:**
  - Thyroid and endocrine cancer: 179 days over average.
  - Endometrial ablation: 153 days over.
  - Lumbar disc (orthopedic): 150 days over.
  - Hysterectomy: 138 days over.
- **Treatments with the shortest wait times:**
  - Forefoot: 164 days under average.
  - Lumbar disc (neurologic): 34 days under.
  - MRI: 27 days under.
  - Aneurysm repair: 25 days under

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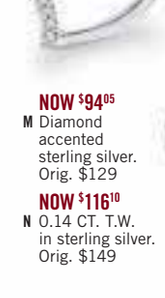

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Ex-military officer guilty of sex assault

A former London military officer has been sentenced to nine months imprisonment after being found guilty by a Canadian Forces military judge of sexual assault.

Petty Officer Second Class James Wilks was also ordered to provide a DNA sample for the national sex offender registry.

He was charged in September 2010 after being accused of sexually assaulting female recruits while performing medical examinations. The incidents took place at the Canadian Forces recruiting centre detachment in London and at the Major G.H. Stirrett Armouries in Sarnia between September 2008 and December 2009.

Wilks served in the Canadian Forces for 27 years and was released in April. He was sentenced yesterday after being found guilty on one count of sexual assault and four counts of breach of trust.

Wilks will serve his sentence at a civilian facility.

AM980/AM980.CA

Fundraiser nets $18.7K

Organizers of the Wine, Women & Shopping fundraising event will present a cheque for $18,700 on Friday to staff at My Sisters' Place, a support centre for women who are homeless. METRO

City needs public input

An open house on the plan is scheduled for today at 7 p.m. at city hall. Committee members also were expected to discuss the future of the former South Street Hospital site during yesterday's meeting, which continued past Metro's deadline.

Five-hour. Meeting

▶ From left, councillors Dale Henderson and Joe Swan, and Mayor Joe Fontana consider an issue during yesterday's planning and environment committee. During the more than five-hour meeting, city staff updated councillors on a variety of issues, including the public-engagement process being rolled out to get input on a review of the city's master plan.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

McGuinty still has faith in anti-bullying bill

It's a fundamental desire shared by all parents that their children feel accepted, safe and supported in school, the Catholic premier said

Ontario's Catholic premier is shrugging off accusations from religious groups that he's betraying his faith by supporting gay rights and abortion.

Campaign Life Catholic made the comments last week while criticizing the governing Liberals' anti-bullying legislation, which they say contains some "radical" elements driven by gay activists.

Jack Fonseca said McGuinty is "not a very strong Catholic" and has no right to dictate what kind of Catholicism gets taught in religious schools.

Representatives from other faiths say they agree bullies must be stopped, but can't condone the bill's requirement that schools promote sexual tolerance through gay clubs, saying it's an affront to their family values.

McGuinty said he's not troubled by accusations that he's betraying his faith.

"You've got to do what you think is right," he said yesterday.

"Maybe different people bring different perspectives to that and different definitions. I have my own particular approach to this and it is the one that is informing our Accepting Schools legislation."

McGuinty was promoting the bill at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School in Aurora yesterday.

Last year, the premier clashed with Catholic school leaders over a revamped sex-ed curriculum.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Catholic schools

- The controversy over gay-straight clubs in schools has also touched off a longstanding debate about Ontario's publicly funded Catholic school system, whose leaders don't always agree with the government's directives.
- But McGuinty said yesterday he has no intention of creating a single public school system in the province, even if it were a cost-saving measure.

1 news

Toddlers are likely to experience a reaction to the first shot of measles, mumps and rubella vaccine, but serious reactions are rare. Scan the code for the story.

To scan 2D barcodes in Metro, download the free ScanLife app at 2dscan.com.

On the web at metronews.ca

U.S. presidential hopeful Rick Perry's new campaign video has incited nearly 700 reply videos, many of which are parodies. Video at metronews.ca/video.

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Bags of. Toys

▶ Brittany Hazelwood, 20, a volunteer from the Roundtable Society at UWO's King's College, grabs a bag of toys yesterday during the first day of the Salvation Army's Christmas-hamper giveaway at the Western Fair District.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Salvation Army taking donations

The Salvation Army expects to give hampers filled with toys and food to 5,200 families this year. The giveaway continues through Dec. 21 and donations are still being accepted at the Western Fair District's Special Events Building. The biggest need right now is toys for children aged 10 to 12, officials said.

Tackling the 99%-1% gap

Income disparity talks were spurred by Occupy London movement

ANGELA MULLINS
@METRONEWS.CA

Narrowing the growing gap between rich and poor will take centre stage tonight at Wolf Performance Hall.

The discussion — led by three experts and melded into the City Symposium series — is designed to kickoff what leaders hope will be an intensive focus on the issue in the new year.

One might consider tonight's presentation the starting line, said Glen Pearson, director of the London Food Bank.

"(The experts) will focus on why we're at where we're at," Pearson said. "It's an opening point for the ... conversation."

Following tonight's event — slated for 6:30 p.m. — leaders of the broader initiative will organize follow-up meetings in January and February. Those meetings, Pearson said, will take on a "citizen-engagement" format, aimed at hearing people's suggestions for fixing social problems like income disparity and unemployment.

Suggestions collected during the discussions will be presented to city officials, likely in March, and passed along to provincial leaders.

The framework for the effort is a provincial review of social-assistance programs. That review has started, Pearson said, and some of the first findings are expected to be released early next year.

The goal, he said, is to make sure local voices are heard as part of the process.

"That's what the whole thing is built around."

Speakers tonight

- **Trish Hennessy**, director of strategic issues, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.
- **Michael Shapcott,** director of affordable housing and social innovation, Wellesley Institute.
- **Mike Moffat**, economist, UWO's Richard Ivey School of Business.

For more local news visit metronews.ca/london

Ontario economic outlook positive, report says

A report from RBC says Ontario's economy is showing signs that it's on track for modest growth following a slowdown in activity earlier this year.

The RBC Economics Provincial Outlook is forecasting that Ontario's economy will grow by two per cent in 2011 and 2.3 per cent in 2012.

The RBC report indicates that the earthquake and tsunami in Japan earlier this year severely disrupted Ontario's vehicle production.

But it says the pace of auto production has trended higher since August and there was even a notable acceleration in November.

Other Ontario manufacturing industries are also beginning to heat up — particularly machinery, primary metals, and fabricated metal products.

However, RBC chief economist Craig Wright notes the forecast hinges on there not being any major slippage in the European sovereign debt crisis.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MICHAEL STUPARYK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Craig Wright

It's official: We're out of Kyoto

New climate deal to be signed in 2015, and would kick in after 2020

Canada is pulling out of the world's only binding climate treaty.

Environment Minister Peter Kent says Canada is withdrawing from the Kyoto Protocol.

"We are invoking Canada's legal right to formally withdraw from Kyoto," Kent said outside the House of Commons.

"This decision formalizes what we've said since 2006, that we will not implement the Kyoto Protocol."

Canada signed Kyoto in the late 1990s, but neither the current Conservative government nor their Liberal predecessors met targets. Kent says the move saves Canada $14 billion in penalties for not achieving its Kyoto targets.

"The Harper government has imposed a death sentence on many of the world's most vulnerable populations by pulling out of Kyoto."
MIKE HUDEMA, GREENPEACE CANADA

Kent says he would not be surprised if other countries follow Canada in pulling out of Kyoto.

At the Durban talks, Canada joined Russia and Japan in refusing to sign on for a second round of Kyoto commitments.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bear. In Vancouver

▶ An officer, holding a tranquilizer gun, watches a black bear perched on top of a garbage truck in downtown Vancouver yesterday.

JAMES GEMMILL/VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Cub to be set free in the wild

It appears the black bear cub got trapped into the garbage canister in North Vancouver, and climbed on top of the bin when the vehicle came to a stop at a busy intersection in downtown Vancouver. The cub was tranquilized and taken to be released in the wild.

It's splitsville for 'gay penguin couple'

Buddy and Pedro, once one of Toronto's hottest "it" couples, have broken up amid pregnancy rumours and a budding relationship with what those on Team Pedro will undoubtedly call a femme fatale.

It only took Buddy 72 hours to bond with Farai, a female penguin he was matched with on Nov. 19, after being separated from Pedro. Handlers at the Toronto Zoo split up the pair out of concern the same-sex bond would hamper breeding efforts.

Pedro has yet to get lucky, but zoo officials say it's not for a lack of trying.

"Pedro is very ready to go, per se, but his prospective mate Thandiwey is a little shy," Tom Mason, the zoo's curator of birds and invertebrates, said yesterday.

"She's not quite ready to go yet but they're beginners, they're just starting life as a pair."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ African Penguins swim in their enclosure at the Toronto Zoo yesterday.

Web sensation

The story of the birds took on a life of its own when the two African penguins, dubbed Toronto's "gay penguins," became an Internet sensation last month amid outrage over their pending separation.

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No burka during citizenship oath

It's a legal matter: Immigration minister Oath-takers must show entire face Rule takes effect immediately

Prospective Canadians are no longer allowed to wear veils while they utter the oath of citizenship, the federal government announced yesterday.

Immigration Minister Jason Kenney told a news conference in Montreal that new Canadians will have to remove any face-coverings, such as the Islamic niqab or burka, while they swear the oath of citizenship. The new rule, which requires oath-takers to show their entire face, takes effect immediately.

Kenney said it's not only a question of "deep principle" for someone to show their face while taking the oath in front of their fellow citizens; it's also a matter of legal concern.

"I don't know how we can verify that someone whose face is covered is actually taking the oath that the law requires of them," Kenney said.

"This is a public act of witness in front of your fellow citizens, in front of the law — and you should be willing to show who you are."

Kenney said he received complaints from citizens, MPs and citizenship judges to the effect that it's difficult to ensure individuals whose faces are covered are actually taking the oath.

He said those concerns prompted him to raise the issue during a recent meeting of citizenship judges in Ottawa.

"I asked (the judges) if this was a widespread problem and I saw a lot of them said that it was," Kenney recalled.

Kenney also defended the rule by saying it has nothing to do with religious freedom, and referred to a pilgrimage to Mecca by Muslim women as an example that supports his point.

"When Muslim women do the Haj ... they're required not to wear a veil, they're required to show their face," he said.

"So, the notion that this is somehow a religious obligation, I don't accept."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Heated debate

- The location of the announcement was not without symbolism. Quebec has had heated debates in recent years over so-called "reasonable accommodation" — how much should Canada bend to accommodate newcomers.
- While in the rest of Canada, such issues are more often raised by conservatives, in Quebec the issue is frequently raised by the left-leaning and nationalist Parti Quebecois.

France. Election

▶ France's would-be presidential candidate Kenza Drider, who wears a face-covering veil, presents her manifesto at an improvised press conference in front of a Paris courthouse.

FRANCOIS MORI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Her presidential manifesto

Kenza Drider rattled off 30 mostly left-leaning proposals — including capping salaries and devaluing the euro — as well as her cause celebre, repealing the ban on wearing face-concealing niqabs in public. Drider, herself wearing a niqab, said she hadn't been able to obtain any mayoral signatures and acknowledged she's very unlikely to get the 500 she needs to run. She urged a change in electoral rules to allow mayors to sign for candidates anonymously.

Chain sticks to decision to pull ads

Lowe's is planning to stick by its decision to yank its ads from a reality TV show about American Muslims despite the growing opposition the home improvement chain is facing over the move.

Lowe's stopped running commercials during All-American Muslim after a conservative group known as the Florida Family Association emailed advertisers to ask them to stop advertising on the show.

The group said the program, which follows the lives of Muslim families living in the Metro Detroit area, was "propaganda that riskily hides the Islamic agenda's clear and present danger to American liberties and traditional values."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

9,200 On Twitter, actor Kal Penn began directing people to a petition in support of the show. By yesterday afternoon, there were about 9,200 signatures.

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Supreme court jumps into immigration law fight

The Supreme Court agreed yesterday to rule on Arizona's controversial law targeting illegal immigrants, setting the stage for an election-year decision on an issue that is already shaping presidential politics.

The justices said they will review a federal appeals court ruling that blocked several tough provisions in the Arizona law. One of those requires that police, while enforcing other laws, question a person's immigration status if officers suspect he is in the country illegally.

The Obama administration challenged the Arizona law by arguing that regulating immigration is the job of the federal government, not states.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROSS D. FRANKLIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ A protester is arrested by Phoenix Police Department in July 2010.

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†March 1, 2011 to February 28, 2012

PURCHASING ALL SCRAP SILVER

News in brief

Canada can prosper amid debt: Carney

DEBT. Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney says the advanced economies of the world are facing a massive challenge with debt, but Canada may be in a position to take advantage. He said that Canada's relative virtue throughout a historic era of deleveraging faced by European countries and the U.S. puts the country in a "privileged position." Carney added Canadian companies must seize the moment, before it disappears. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

CRTC targets Bell Mobility

WIRELESS. The national telecommunications regulator is putting Bell Mobility in the penalty box for securing exclusive rights to hockey and football content for mobile devices. Bell Mobility gave itself a significant competitive advantage by signing deals with the National Hockey League and National Football League, the CRTC ruled yesterday. The decision followed a complaint from Telus Communications last January. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Airline sued for charging the disabled

LAWSUIT. Disabled travellers who had to pay extra for seats on Air Canada could be in line for compensation as part of a class-action lawsuit authorized in Quebec. The suit is on behalf of disabled Canadians who had to pay extra for seats over a three-year period from 2005 to 2008. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Women in charge of gift buying in the family: Poll

80 per cent of households polled say women do the holiday shopping 43 per cent of women buy online

HYOSUB SHIN/THE ATLANTA JOURNAL CONSTITUTION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Women shop at a Toys R Us in Atlanta, Ga., on Nov. 24.

Santa is a woman.

That's according to BMO's 2011 Holiday Spending Outlook.

BMO says 80 per cent of households polled said the female head of family will do the majority of holiday shopping, and this year, more and more will do it online.

BMO's annual survey revealed a substantial increase in the number of women using the Internet to shop for gifts. The figure jumped to 43 per cent from 34 per cent last year. At 49 per cent, men are still somewhat more inclined than women to shop online — but the gap is narrowing.

The survey polled 1508 Canadians and is considered accurate within plus or minus 2.5 per cent 19 times out of 20.

"The ability to quickly and easily research products and compare prices and even arrange for delivery at the click of a mouse or the touch of a key pad makes it a remarkably convenient approach for busy, budget-conscious and multi-tasking women," said Su McVey, vice-president of BMO Bank of Montreal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar
- 126.86 (11,907.89)	- $0.71¢ ($97.48¢ US)

Oil	Natural gas
- $1.64 US ($97.77 US)	$3.254 US (- 6.3¢ US)

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Hillcrest Mall
Lambton Mall
Lansdowne Place
Lime Ridge Mall
Lynden Park Mall
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Markville Shopping Centre
Masonville Place
New Sudbury Centre
Northgate Shopping Centre
Oakville Place
Oshawa Centre
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The Promenade
Toronto Eaton Centre
Union Station
Upper Canada Mall
Vaughan Mills
White Oaks Mall
Woodbine Centre
Yorkdale Mall

GETTING ALL WRAPPED UP IN THE HOLIDAYS

SHE SAYS ...

JESSICA NAPIER
METRO

For couples who intend to spend the holidays together, 'tis the season for family feuds and hurt feelings.

December is arguably the busiest time of the year, so when you move from being an "I" to a "we," this already-overscheduled month becomes even more complicated. With emotions running high, there can be all sorts of issues attached to deciding where and with whom to spend your yuletide time.

Do we commit to one set of parents? Divide our time between each other's family get-togethers? Try blending our families into one big (and potentially disastrous) celebration? Or do we split up and spend the holidays apart?

With all of the parental pressures and guilt-tripping the season brings, sometimes the most desirable course of action is to ditch everyone and spend December 25th alone together, eating Chinese food and watching a movie.

Married couples and those in long-term relationships can easily burn themselves out trying to fulfil calendars full of family commitments. Forget your holiday wish list, all you really want for Christmas is some extra time, or perhaps a couple of clones.

"...the turkey will never taste quite the same, and this other family's drunken uncle will seem terribly racist — on the other hand, your sloshed-by-noon-uncle is 'endearing.'"

The unfortunate reality for adult children is that you will never really be able to please the numerous sets of parents, step-parents, in-laws and extended family members. In striving to meet everyone's expectations you'll stress yourself out and turn into an argumentative and unpleasant grinch.

But, hey, isn't that what the holidays are all about?

Deciding how you'll celebrate the season will ultimately depend on a variety of factors — religious beliefs, geography, work commitments, money — but if you want to spend the holidays with your significant other, you'll have to make some compromises.

It's more than likely that at some point in your life you'll have to spend the holidays with a family that isn't your own. Yes, unfamiliar familial surroundings can be difficult: the turkey will never taste quite the same, and this other family's drunken uncle will seem terribly racist — on the other hand, your sloshed-by-noon-uncle is "endearing." They'll want to watch A Christmas Story even though you ALWAYS watch It's a Wonderful Life, and you'll be irrationally devastated.

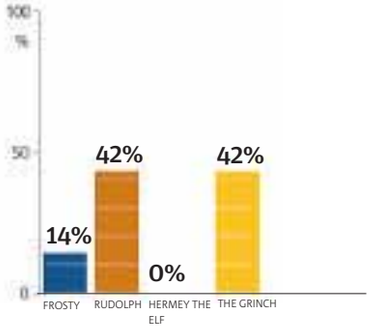
Since every family has their own unique festive customs, you'll have to adjust your own expectations if you want to get through the holidays without weeping into your eggnog. But in letting go of some of your established traditions, you'll give yourself the opportunity to start making some new ones. And remember, it's actually a nice thing when too many people want to spend time with you.

Read more of Jessica Napier's columns at metronews.ca/shesays

Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Who would win in a holiday cartoon showdown?



Local tweets

- **@timtimthay:** When the bartenders dress better than everyone in the club #ldnont.
- **@Di___Va:** #thatawkwardmomentwhen you start singing out loud and then realize you are in the library #uwo #weldon
- **@DylanDonovan:** Just because It is exam season does not mean that it's acceptable to go without showering #UWO
- **@DayaCounselling:** Yeah! It's looking bright today! Get outside & enjoy this tropical weather (by tropical, we mean sunny and not below freezing). #ldnont
- **@DJKid_A:** Hey London!! What are your NYE plans?? #ldnont
- **@LocalLovingGal:** Best of luck to all my #CCPR #Fanshawe peeps on our last exam of the term!! 12 bars of #Christmas to follow!!
- **@sass_gidget:** what's more annoying than waiting 6 weeks for grad photos in the mail? getting them and realizing they screwed up the order. #uwo
- **@VitVit18:** How come the further in university I get, 3 hour exams seem shorter and shorter? #UWO #UniversityStudentProblems

Daily Zoom

LEE GRISMER/WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oh, hello, gecko — nice to meet you

New creature found in Mekong every 2 days!

This psychedelic gecko is one of the latest species discovered on Hon Khoai island, Mau province, in southern Vietnam.

The gecko is among 208 new species described last year by scientists in the Mekong River region of Southeast Asia, according to the WWF.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mekong River

- The region spans Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and the southwestern Chinese province of Yunnan. The report reveals an average of one new species discovered every two days.
- 28 reptiles were newly discovered in 2010, including an all-female lizard in Vietnam that reproduces via cloning.

Despite findings many species are threatened

The Mekong's wildlife population is under threat from rapid, unsustainable development and climate change. One tragic indicator of the decline of biodiversity is the recent extinction of the Javan rhino in Vietnam, which was recently confirmed by WWF.

METRO

"Mekong governments have to stop thinking about biodiversity protection as a cost and recognize it as an investment to ensure long-term stability."

STUART CHAPMAN, CONSERVATION DIRECTOR OF WWF GREATER MEKONG

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2 scene

Bird flies into action

Director Brad Bird takes the leap from family films into the explosive world of live-action entertainment with Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol How he adapted his technique

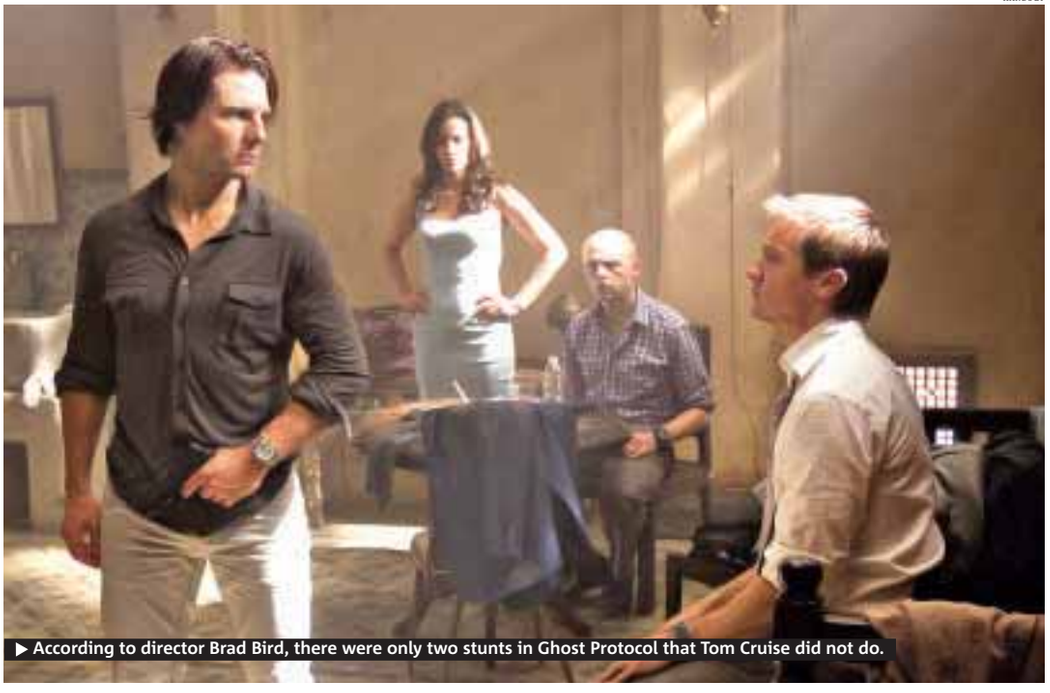
STEVE GOW
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Brad Bird was not the most obvious candidate to take over the reins of the Tom Cruise multimillion-dollar Mission: Impossible film franchise.

While the filmmaker's Oscar-winning background stands on its own, it is mostly comprised of not only animated entertainment but specifically family-oriented favourites like Ratatouille and The Incredibles.

Now with Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol about to hit IMAX theatres this Friday (it opens on regular theatres next Wednesday), Brad Bird discussed leaping from kiddy cinema to explosive live-action entertainment.

HANDOUT



According to director Brad Bird, there were only two stunts in Ghost Protocol that Tom Cruise did not do.

What was the biggest challenge of going from choreographing animation to live-action?

If I had gone from hand-held animation, which my first film, The Iron Giant, was to live-action, it would've been a bigger leap but the last two films I did, The Incredibles and Ratatouille, were dimensional; there was CGI so you could move the camera through space and you could light it like you would any film so I got very comfortable with that.

So it actually felt fairly natural to move to real people and things.

Certainly The Incredibles had its share of action too. What do you love about spy films?

They're sleek and they're exotic and fast and kind of explosive. They can go from very quiet suspense to all hell breaking loose just like that. This movie is definitely in that realm and that's one of the reasons that I wanted to do it.

I understand that Tom Cruise did all of his own stunts in this — true?

There's only two that he didn't do and in both of them the stuntman got hurt so he was very wise in not doing those two. But all of the ones on the Burj Khalifa (the tallest building in the world) where you see him climbing around, that's him. People are going to say, 'oh, that can't be him' but it's him.

Brad Bird talks Mission: Impossible

- **Bird on tourists posting photos of Tom Cruise hanging from the side of Dubai's Burj Khalifa during filming:**
"At first we were mad because the very first stuff (we shot went) online and we were like 'We can't show this stuff before the movie comes out'. But then we thought this proves that he's there, he's not a special effect."

- **Bird on Ghost Protocol being the biggest of the Mission: Impossible franchise:**
"I don't think it's the most expensive but it is the biggest. We had to be very clever with how we did things but it is the biggest and it's enormous – it was a challenge to do absolutely."

Box office

Meryl Streep may be considered one of the finest actresses around, yet she says she believed her career was over 20 years ago. Streep, now 62, tells Vogue magazine she was offered three different roles to play a witch after turning 40. She believed it meant women in her age group were "grotesque on some level," and told her husband "It's over." Streep graces the January cover of Vogue magazine for the first time and jokes in the magazine she's the "oldest person" to do so. Next, she plays the former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in the new film Iron Lady. She'll portray Thatcher from age 49 to 85. The film opens January 13. The January issue of Vogue goes on sale Dec. 20.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clooney's Descendants named best film by LA critics; Fassbender wins best-actor prize

Barbie, with tattoos

Nicki Minaj and Katy Perry soon to be made into dolls

In case you didn't want your young daughter growing up to idolize a blonde, unhealthily proportioned woman who owns convertibles, Jeeps and veterinary clinics, she can now instead idolize skimpily dressed, alcohol-loving celebrities with multicoloured hair, who also own everything.

As TMZ reported, longtime Barbie-creator Mattel is planning to launch dolls for Nicki Minaj and Katy Perry. The dolls are said to include striking similarities to the real pop princesses like the tattoo on Nicki Minaj's left arm. What little girl wouldn't love that?

Minaj has garnered a following of fans who refer to themselves as "Barbies" in honour of the singer's fondness for crazy blonde wigs and the colour pink. Both Minaj and Perry are known for breaking the mold when it comes to fashion. Usually they're both spotted wearing outfits Barbie wouldn't be caught dead in. Nicki Minaj's Barbie, at least, is reportedly set to be auctioned off for the charity Project Angel Food, with bids starting at $1,000. Katy Perry's Barbie did not comment on whether she will be auctioned off for charity.
METRO

JAMIE MCCARTHY/GETTY IMAGES

Nicki Minaj

DVD Releases

Rise of the Planet of the Apes
Genre: Action
Director: Rupert Wyatt
Stars: James Franco, Andy Serkis, Freido Pinto

The world needs another Planet of the Apes movie like a circus acrobat needs a banana peel. After five original films, two TV spin-offs and Tim Burton's failed 2001 "reimagining," the franchise has fleas. Yet Rise of the Planet of the Apes defies expectations (and fears), and two words explain why: Andy Serkis. The British magician behind the digital sorcery of Gollum and King Kong gives his finest performance yet as Caesar, the brainy chimp who leads a primate revolution against enslaving humans. Serkis commands the screen, combining his malleable features with the motion-capture technology he excels at. His Caesar conveys more emotion than any of the human characters. Director Rupert Wyatt's version, scripted by Rick Jaffa and Amanda Silver (who previously teamed for The Relic), pays tribute to the original series without being bound by it. Not surprisingly, that story's object lesson about how slavery is all in the eye of the beholder doesn't resonate as strongly now. **PETER HOWELL**

Running with rodents

Jason Lee talks about the surreal experience of talking to stuffed animals and bean bags for the new Alvin and the Chipmunks film

NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN HOLLYWOOD

Jason Lee was more than happy to reprise his role as Dave Seville, the human minder and manager to a furry pop trio in Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked. But the third film in the franchise provided some new challenges for the actor — namely filming on a Carnival cruise ship. "I mean, we were only there for a week, but my idea of a getaway is not being on a cruise ship with thousands of people, personally," Lee says. "You eat all day and all night, and you're out at sea. It's quite surreal, the cruise thing."

While Lee admits the process has gotten easier with the first two Chipmunks films under his belt, there's a surreality to working with virtual characters that never really goes away.

HANDOUT

▶ Jason Lee reprises his role as chipmunk manager Dave Seville in Chipwrecked.

"It's always a bit surreal when you're looking at pieces of tape and stuffed animals and tan beanbags," he says, adding that more dramatic scenes — like an emotional reunion with his furry kids — can be especially jarring. '"Theodore, I miss you!' And it's a beanbag in your hand. It's kind of strange."

But despite the challenges of making a movie with animated chipmunks, Lee is thrilled to have some entries on his resumé for his children to enjoy.

Jason Lee's television roots

While former professional skateboarder Jason Lee got his start as an actor in films — mostly for Kevin Smith — it was his TV work that made him a star, especially on the four-year run of My Name is Earl.

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Celebrity tweets

@JohnCleese
Nearly the end of another gruelling week of talking about myself. It's a good job that I'm so interesting...

@SarahKSilverman
My dog has to think the elevator's a time machine, right? There's no other possible explanation.

@russellcrowe
90 sweaty minutes in the gym. Some days you love it, some you hate it. Today was all love.

@juliebenz
whenever someone says "we're only giving gifts to the kids this holiday season" my inner child screams "NO! I want presents too!!"

Hulk Hogan is not a homosexual, OK?

Wrestler grappling with allegations from ex-wife ◆ Claims they are untrue

ALL PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

▶ Hulk Hogan

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Hulk Hogan, who filed a defamation suit against ex-wife Linda Bollea, says he's just trying to defend his reputation.

"After the four-year crazy divorce I thought I'd heard everything I could hear in the courtroom," the wrestling star tells Us Weekly.

"Then all of a sudden she says I abused her, that I was violent. She told everybody that I was a homosexual."

Hogan adds that his real problem with Bollea's accusations is that they aren't accurate.

"If any of that was true, I would admit it, and (if) I was a homosexual I would embrace it," he says.

"If you're going to say I'm something that I'm not to try to ruin my career and my livelihood, I have to answer her back."

Look, Linda. Just because at one point in his life, your ex-husband loved Spandex, tan skin, Fu Manchus, rippling muscles, had a huge boa scarf collection, ripped his shirt off at the drop of a hat and pinned sweaty men to the ground for a living, does not mean he was in the closet while you were married.

If it were someone else's husband, however, I'd be a tad worried.

A theft-filled weekend for Lindsay Lohan

Lindsay Lohan had a drama-filled weekend, and not just because of her leaked Playboy spread.

While partying in Hawaii, the troubled starlet reportedly had her purse stolen, according to TMZ.

The $5,000 Chanel handbag, which was snatched from a parked car, was said to contain $10,000 in cash.

The purse was later returned, minus the cash. Lohan was reportedly fretting another probation violation, as her passport and court documents allowing her to travel were also in the purse, but were returned safely.

Which leads us to a very pressing, unrelated question: Do drug dealers accept traveller's checks?

METRO

Lindsay Lohan

Rashida's not fond of marriage

Rashida Jones won't be looking to tie the knot anytime soon, if her feelings about marriage are any indication.

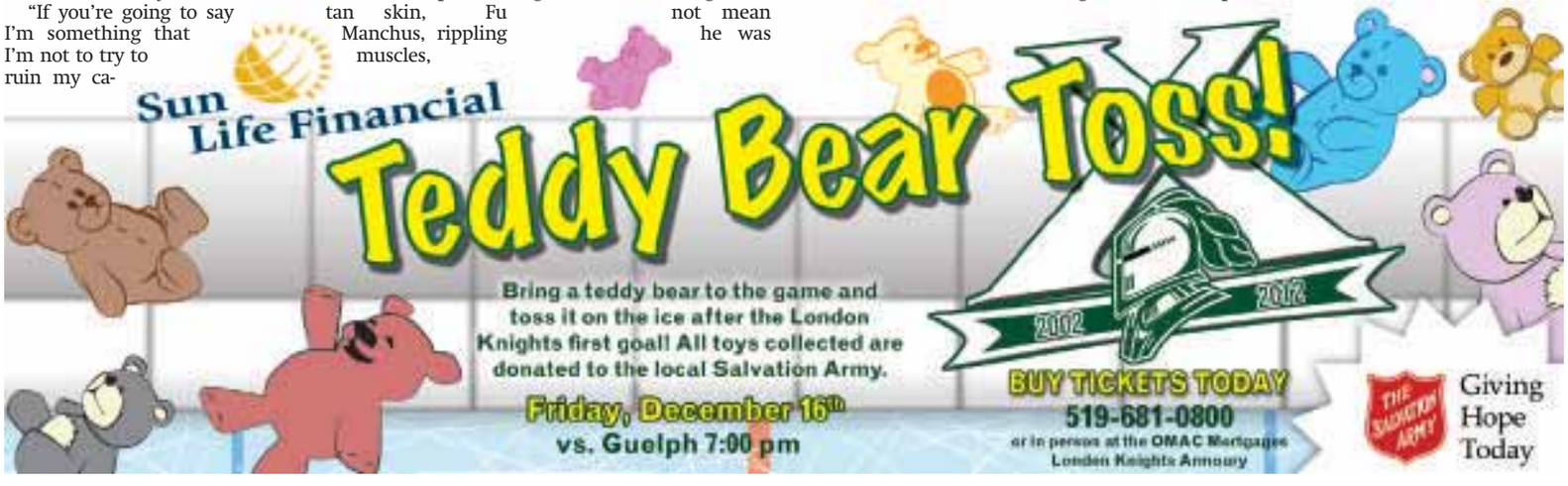
"I totally believe in romance and love and all that, but the actual institution of marriage — in this country, more than half the people get divorced. So, something's not working," she tells People magazine.

"I'm not saying it doesn't work for everybody. I love going to weddings."

But marriage or no marriage, Jones says what she looks for most in a man is a sense of humour.

"Funny is important," she says. "He doesn't have to laugh at my jokes. He has to make me laugh."

METRO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Babies are skeptics

New study shows that even infants can detect when you're acting shady They'll start to tune you out So remember: just because they're little, doesn't mean they aren't on to you

CELIA MILNE
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

ISTOCK PHOTOS

▶ Don't confuse their cuteness — babies can tell when your actions don't add up.

You can't trick babies. They'll distrust you.

Researchers in psychology at Concordia University in Montreal have found that infants just over a year old can already get a bead on who is reliable and who is unreliable. The babies will quickly start ignoring cues from those who are unreliable.

"Even babies detect when someone's behaviour is not conventional," says Diane Poulin-Dubois, a professor of psychology at Concordia University. "It seems that they then turn off the 'learning switch' that typically makes them learn from that person."

Poulin-Dubois and colleagues conducted a study with 60 babies between 13 and 16 months of age.

The wee ones were divided into two groups — those with a reliable adult and those with an unreliable adult — and shown tasks they could mimic. In the first task, testers looked inside a container and expressed excitement and delight before handing the container to the baby.

In the reliable group, there was a toy inside. In the unreliable group, the container was empty. This was repeated several times.

For the second task, the same adult showed the babies a touch-on light. The tester placed it on a desk and switched it on by leaning forward and using the forehead.

This was repeated three times before passing the light to the infant. Infants who had been tricked in the first experiment were far less likely to imitate the adult. Over two attempts, 34 per cent of infants in the unreliable condition mimicked the adult, versus 61 per cent of infants in the reliable condition.

"Babies are setting down the groundwork for a lifelong skill — remaining vigilant about who is an expert and who is not," says Poulin-Dubois.

The study was published in the journal Infant Behaviour and Development.

Learning

Babies learn from older humans. But would they copy a robot?

Robots A team of researchers from the University of Washington found babies will imitate a robot if they have previously seen the robot playing with someone. Turns out, it's more important to babies that robots are sociable than that they look human.

Best Health Minute

BONNIE MUNDAY, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, BEST HEALTH MAGAZINE

Eat, Think and Be Merry In the December issue of Best Health, our registered dietitian columnist Sue Mah put together some excellent tips for navigating the holiday events and their appetizer trays and buffet tables. A big part of it, she says, is eating mindfully — that is, really taking time to focus on what you eat, and more importantly, how you eat. Here are a few ways.

1. Do a walkabout
Before you even put a single piece of food on your plate, take a stroll around the buffet table and check out all of the options. Mentally classify them as 'must try' or 'can do without them today.' On your plate, put a few bites of a small portion of the 'must try' foods — making sure there are two types of vegetables — plus one 'must try' dessert.

2. Chat
After your first plate of food, you may feel like going back for seconds. Instead, sit back and take a planned break to catch up with friends. It takes about 20 minutes for your stomach to tell your brain you're full. After 20 minutes, ask yourself if you're really still hungry.

3. Keep your distance
Avoid standing near the party nibbles unless you have incredible willpower. When food is easily within reach, chances are you'll pick up a bite or two, or three. Let's say that two hors-d'oeuvres have 100 calories. By the time you've eaten a few, you have had the equivalent of a small meal.

Get 5 more tips in the December issue of Best Health, on newsstands now. And find our roundup of actual-size party snacks, along with their calories and fat grams. It may just help you get through party season with no added pounds. For example, can you guess what's in one of those mini quiches?
A. 50 calories and 1 gram of fat.
B. 65 calories and 3 grams of fat.
C. 80 calories and 6 grams of fat.

The answer is C. Those little party snacks can really add up.

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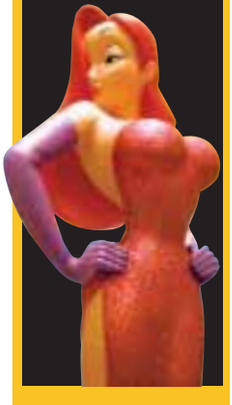
3 life

Trends

Twenty-two-year-old Russian Kristina Rei thought her 'thin' lips made her unpretty, so she decided to spend $5,000 (around 100 injections) in order have the pillow lips of cartoon character Jessica Rabbit. The nail technician is admitting she has an addiction, but this hasn't put her off considering another round of the $55, 'painful' injections.
METRO



Born smaller than soda cans, tiniest babies are growing up healthy

Keeping it simple: Los Comales' recipe for success

Latin eatery's made-from-scratch items aren't fancy, but they are delicious

LUNCH RUSH

PAUL MITCHELL
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

"Authentic" is used frequently to describe Latin food — some say it, others serve it. Although Los Comales is rough around the edges, the care that goes into each dish makes it a true gem.

Sparse decor reflects a simply-run operation with one server and one woman in the back making everything from scratch. The basic menu is a traditional range of Pupusas and Flautas with more substantial items including Enchiladas ($13.95) and Chile Rellenos ($12.95).

I order Empanadas ($2.75 each) and a main of Soft Tacos (three for $8.95). My guest chooses a Beef Chimichangas ($16.95). The food arrives quickly, hot.

The quality of fillings and freshly-made tortillas is impressive. In particular, the Chimichangas is massive, loaded with beef and cheese, deep-fried to perfect crispness.

Los Comales keeps things simple, from its atmosphere to its limited choice of ingredients, but it works wonderfully for a filling and delicious Latin lunch.

PAUL MITCHELL

▶ Beef Chimichangas ($16.95).

Los Comales Latin Food
346 Richmond St.
(between King and York)
226-663-8452
loscomaleslatinfood.ca
Reservations: No
Licensed: Yes
Quick solo lunch: Yes
Social lunch: Yes
Client negotiations: No
Co-worker lunch: Yes
Price range: $3.95 - $16.95
Rating: 4 out of 5

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Chocolate Peanut Butter Covered Apples

Preparation:

1. In a small saucepan over medium-low, heat cream and peanut butter until bubbling. Remove pan from heat and add chocolate bits. Stir until completely smooth. Set aside to cool for 10 minutes.
2. From bottom, push a pop stick up into core of each apple. The stick should go deep enough to be sturdy, but leave enough exposed to serve as a handle.
3. Line a baking sheet with waxed paper. Place peanuts in bowls, if using.
4. One at a time, using sticks as handles, dip apples in chocolate mixture. Use a spoon to scoop up extra chocolate and pour over apples to help coat sides. Allow extra chocolate to drip back into pan. Dip coated apples into nuts. Stand apples, stick in air, on lined baking sheet. Refrigerate until firm.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ingredients:

- 90 ml (3 oz) heavy cream
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) creamy peanut butter
- 175 g (6 oz) bittersweet chocolate bits
- 4 apples (any variety)
- 4 wooden pop sticks
- Chopped salted peanuts (optional)

Festive cake fit for Christmas

Combine pears with tart dried cranberries and a decadent frosting

Preparation:

1. Coat two 23-cm (9-inch) round cake pans with baking spray. Line bottom of each pan with parchment paper.
2. In bowl of electric mixer, beat sugar, butter, vanilla, baking powder, baking soda, ginger and salt until creamy. Add eggs, one at a time, scraping sides of bowl between additions.
3. Stir in pears and flour and mix until combined. Stir in cranberries. Divide batter between prepared cake pans and bake in 180 C (350 F) oven 30 mins.. or until a wooden pick inserted at centre comes out clean. Let cool in pans for 10 minutes; turn onto wire rack to finish cooling.
4. Frosting: In bowl of an electric mixer, beat butter, sugar, orange rind, cardamom, ginger and cinnamon until creamy. Add cream cheese and mix until completely incorporated and smooth.
5. To assemble cake, place 1 cake on serving plate, spread about 175 ml (3/4 cup) of the frosting evenly over the top of it. Place second cake over it. Spread remaining frosting over top and sides of cake, swirling frosting. Decorate with strips of orange zest and dried cranberries, if desired. Refrigerate until ready to serve. ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS, PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. (EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients:

- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) granulated sugar
- 125 ml (1/2 cup/1 stick) unsalted butter, softened
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) vanilla extract
- 10 ml (2 tsp) baking powder
- 5 ml (1 tsp) ground cinnamon
- 5 ml (1 tsp) baking soda
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) ground ginger
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
- 2 eggs
- 3 ripe pears, cored, peeled and finely chopped (about 500 ml/2 cups total)
- 500 ml (2 cups) all-purpose flour
- 500 ml (2 cups) chopped dried cranberries

Frosting

- 250 ml (1 cup/2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened
- 500 ml (2 cups) icing sugar
- 10 mL (2 tsp) grated orange rind
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) ground cardamom
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) ground ginger
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) ground cinnamon
- 2 pkgs (each 250 g/8 oz) cream cheese
- Strips of orange rind (optional)
- Dried cranberries, to decorate (optional)

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cranberry Pear Cake

▶ This recipe serves 16.

Top 5 most shoplifted items of the holiday season

ISTOCK

▶ Nothing beats the thrill of stuffing cold, raw meat down your pants.

The time of year sees plenty of merchandise fly off the shelves, whether it's paid for or not.

Scores of shoppers will pass through the doors of countless retailers, but one in 11 of them will walk out for something they swiped with a five-finger discount, according to the National Association of Shoplifting Prevention in the U.S.

Ad Week spoke to security professionals who named some of the top items for shoplifters.

1. Filet mignon: Luxury meat theft is up by 21 per cent, making grocery stores and markets the most common setting for shoplifting.

2. Jameson: Shockingly, people who love to steal also love to drink. Pricey liquor makes up about 2.9 per cent of stolen merchandise.

3. Electric tools: Shoplifters, though a sneaky breed, are also quite handy. DIY items are the third most popular category for thieves — think electric toothbrushes and power tools.

4. iPhone4: No surprise here — digital gadgets, in general, fly right off the shelves and right into pockets. Apple products are especially popular among shoplifters.

5. Gillette Mach 4 Razor blades Shoplifters have discerning taste when it comes to a smooth, close shave.

Not just any razor blade will do.

METRO NEW YORK

Revel in small pleasures

ON MONEY

ALISON GRIFFITHS
MONEY@METRONEWS.CA

Taking a break, as I've just done for the past two weeks, is one of the hardest things about being a freelance writer and broadcaster. Anyone who is self-employed will nod in agreement.

For one thing, it's hard to turn down work — you don't know when the next job will come along or if a regular gig suddenly disappears.

The problem with never turning down work is that you rarely stop to smell the roses. While many of us in this situation love what we do, work should give us the opportunity to enjoy our lives.

Whether it's roses that excite you, sports, crafts or travel, our other interests are what feed our souls and keep us balanced in troubled times.

Recently, I've been stewing over the way a publication I've worked with for years has treated me. I wanted to rage and complain. Instead, I went for a run in the woods with my dogs and gloried in their enthusiasm. I'm still upset but my non-work interests helped ameliorate the blow.

After earning your paycheque, if you can do something that makes you happy or even just content, then the work has been worthwhile.

While I was off I took a friend to a rehab session after his knee replacement. I saved him a couple of hours travel time and had a nice visit. And I had a long phone conversation with another old friend whose uncle had recently died and she was trying to sort out his estate. The best part was enjoying the moment — seizing it in fact.

ISTOCK

▶ Alison's money rule: Earning money is important but not if you don't enjoy life outside work.

I also tried to revel in life's mundane routines, which often pass in a blur but can actually be pleasurable if you focus on them.

I cleared out some clutter, listened to a neighbour complain about his health problems, raked some leaves and hung up bungee cords that were in a tangled pile. Though I'm sorry to say the enjoyable routine magic didn't work with vacuuming.

It is the season of resolutions but rather than come up with things you should do or do better, direct your thoughts to your work and non-work life. Make the most out of each as best you can and feel good about the small things.

ALISON GRIFFITHS IS THE AUTHOR OF THE UPCOMING BOOK COUNT ON YOURSELF: TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR MONEY. REACH HER AT ALISONGRIFFITHS.CA OR GRIFFITHS.ALISON@GMAIL.COM.

THE DRUNK-DRIVING ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

As a hostess, how do I deal with drinking and driving for my guests at my Christmas party?
Nervous hostess

CHARLES THE BUTLER

ASKCHARLES THEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

FOR MORE, VISIT CHARLES MACPHERSON.COM

Dear Nervous Hostess,

Good on you for asking the important question! I don't need to tell readers the importance of this subject. I personally think it is just as delicate a subject no matter who this concerns.

As a butler I have had to deal with this on several occasions.

Firstly, try to be prepared ahead of time. Suggest a designated driver at your event (this person can drive numerous guests home as needed) and/or have some cash on hand to send someone home by taxi if required.

After doing some research, the auto insurance website progressive.com had some great suggestions:

1. If the person is a close friend, try to use a soft, calm approach at first. Suggest that he's had too much to drink and it would be better to let someone else drive or to take a cab.

2. Be calm.

3. Try to make it sound like you are doing them a favour.

4. If the person is somebody you don't know well, speak to his friends and have them make an attempt to persuade him to hand over the keys. Usually, he will listen.

5. If the person is a good friend, spouse or significant other, tell him that if he insists on driving, you are not going with him. Tell him that you will call someone else for a ride, take a cab or walk.

6. Locate the person's keys while he is preoccupied and take them away.

Most likely, he will think he's lost his keys and will be forced to find another mode of transportation.

If possible, avoid embarrassing the person or being confrontational.

HAVE A QUESTION? EMAIL CHARLES AT ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA.

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Claw. Man

▶ DeMar DeRozan walks away after talking to the media yesterday at the Air Canada Centre in Toronto.

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Raptors roster coming together with intense schedule looming

The Raptors held their traditional media day yesterday ahead of what will be a far from traditional season, with 66 games crammed into four months on the heels of the NBA lockout. To bolster his young nucleus of DeMar DeRozan, Ed Davis and Amir Johnson, Raptors general manager Bryan Colangelo has signed veterans Anthony Carter and Rasual Butler to go along with big men Aaron Gray and Toronto native Jamaal Magloire.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Uncertainty surrounds Sid again

Crosby suffers setback No word on timeline for Pittsburgh star's next return to ice

Sidney Crosby is back on the shelf — his comeback stalled indefinitely with concussion-like symptoms.

"Frustrating, I don't think that even describes it," Crosby told reporters.

Still the Pittsburgh Penguins star looked for positives yesterday, saying he is feeling "much, much better" than he did after being levelled by big hits in successive games Jan. 1 and Jan. 5 that triggered his 10-month absence from the game. He also said he felt worse only a few weeks before the Penguins training camp in mid-September.

"It's much different than previously going through that stuff," Crosby said. "I'm way better off than I was dealing with this stuff 10 months ago or whatever it was."

Still it's a setback for the NHL's biggest star, only three weeks removed from a spectacular comeback.

"I just figured it was better to be cautious here and not take any chances. That's kind of where I'm at right now," Crosby said.

"I'm not happy about watching. But I've got to make sure with these sort of things that I'm careful."

"(Crosby's) been away for so long, and was so happy to be playing with us again. It's been crazy. We've had a full team for only a couple of games."

PENGUINS GOALIE MARC-ANDRE FLEURY

Crosby's comeback appeared to be a success until he experienced headaches following a 3-1 loss to Boston on Dec. 5.

After sitting out a pair of road games as a precaution, Crosby was expected to return to practice yesterday.

Instead he sat out and told reporters that he won't practise or play until he is symptom-free. He wouldn't guess when that might be.

While Crosby absorbed several hits against the Bruins, including an elbow to the head from David Krejci, nothing appeared worrisome.

He developed headaches the next day and the Penguins decided to keep him home for last weekend's road trip. The headaches persisted throughout the weekend — Crosby acknowledged having symptoms — and the Penguins weren't about to let him practise despite the absence of any test revealing a concussion. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

5

The season isn't even halfway over, and the Penguins have had five players sidelined by concussions: Sidney Crosby, Zybenek Michalek, Kris Letang Robert Bortozzo and Tyler Kennedy.

NBA addresses concussions

The NBA has put in place a concussion policy that will determine when players return from head injuries.

The protocols went into effect with the start of training camps "for the safety and protection of our players," the league said yesterday.

If a player is diagnosed with a concussion, he will have to complete a series of steps to confirm that he's healthy enough for competition. Once he is free of symptoms, the player must make it through increasing stages of exertion — from a stationary bike, to jogging, to agility work, to non-contact team drills — while ensuring the symptoms don't return after each one. Then the neurologist hired to lead the NBA's concussion program needs to be consulted before the player is cleared.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Brewers bring in Ramirez

The Milwaukee Brewers agreed to terms with free-agent third baseman Aramis Ramirez yesterday, agent Paul Kinzer told The Associated Press. The Brewers, who expect to lose Prince Fielder in free agency and may be without Ryan Braun if he loses his appeal for testing positive for a banned substance, could use Ramirez, who hit .306 with 26 home runs and 93 RBIs in 2011.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 sports

Quoted

"As of a right now, I have on a Magic uniform. ... If it's meant for me to stay here, then I'll stay."

ORLANDO MAGIC STAR DWIGHT HOWARD. MAGIC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ALEX MARTINS SAID HE SAT DOWN WITH THE ALL-STAR CENTRE YESTERDAY MORNING, A DAY AFTER HOWARD SAID HE HADN'T SPOKEN TO GENERAL MANAGER OTIS SMITH SINCE ASKING THE TEAM TO BE TRADED. MARTINS SAID HE REMAINS CONFIDENT THINGS STILL CAN BE DONE TO CONVINCE HOWARD THAT ORLANDO CAN BUILD A CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM.

Scan code for more sports.

Argonauts swing deal for Ray

Toronto sends Jyles, kicker, second-overall pick to Edmonton for QB 32-year-old has won two Grey Cups

Ricky Ray is heading East.

The Toronto Argonauts acquired the veteran quarterback from the Edmonton Eskimos for quarterback Steven Jyles, kicker Grant Shaw and the second-overall selection in the 2012 CFL Canadian College Draft.

"Our mission since 2010 has been to build the Argos into a consistent and credible football team," Argos general manager Jim Barker said in a statement. "This trade moves that process along and demonstrates our commitment to re-establishing Argos football in this city. While we gave up a lot, we felt it was important to be aggressive and go after what we needed.

"This trade is an investment by our organization in the future of the Double Blue and in its new on-field leader, Ricky Ray."

Edmonton GM Eric Tillman said he didn't enter the off-season intent on trading Ray. However, he added the Argos' dogged pursuit of the veteran quarterback resulted in a deal that Tillman believes makes the Eskimos younger and improves their Canadian content.

"They were very aggressive," Tillman said. "We were not looking to trade Ricky and were very reluctant to do so."

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Ricky Ray has been traded to Toronto.

But Jyles won't be handed the Eskimos starting job. Tillman said Jyles will have to compete in training camp for the No. 1 position against veteran Kerry Joseph and youngsters Matt Nichols and Eric Ward.

The Argos will officially introduce their newest addition tomorrow morning in Toronto.

The 32-year-old Ray had spent his entire nine-year CFL career with Edmonton, leading the Eskimos to two Grey Cup championships over that span.

"I would like to thank the Edmonton Eskimos and their fans for nine years of good memories and for giving me the opportunity to play for such a good organization and win a couple of championships," Ray said. "While it's tough to leave all the people who have helped me in my career, I'm excited to move forward, take the next step in my career and come to Toronto, an organization with a rich history and tradition where we will have another chance to win a Grey Cup."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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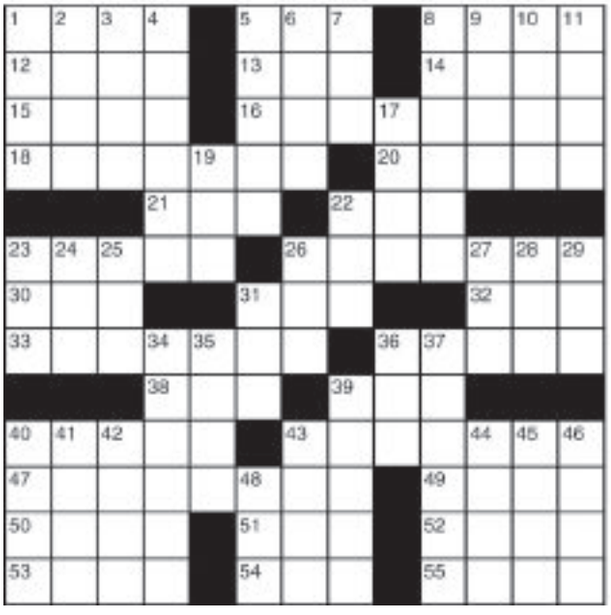
Crossword



Across
1 Double agent
5 Sis' sib
8 Havana's country
12 Pre-diploma hurdle
13 Scarlet
14 October birthstone
15 Withered
16 Firewood supports
18 Humanlike robot
20 Apartment-complex unit
21 Pistol
22 Half-score
23 Rags-to-riches author
26 Moderately slow in music
30 Arthur or Lillie
31 Pismire
32 Physicist Georg
33 Pyrenees principality
36 Refuges
38 Chinese cook's vessel
39 Matterhorn, e.g.
40 Prince William's mother
43 Massachusetts city
47 Pamela or Loni
49 Strong wind
50 Use a teaspoon
51 Blackbird
52 Gaelic
53 Red — (candy)
54 Tiny
55 Kept watch on

Down
1 Small plateau
2 Yoked team
3 Fat
4 Come out
5 Gray matter
6 Tear
7 Peculiar
8 Ring around the sun
9 "Once — a time"
10 Musical combo
11 As well
17 On the rocks
19 "— Town"
22 Explosive letters
23 Lawyers' org.
24 Cariou of Broadway
25 Wander about
26 Literary collection
27 Ph. bk. info
28 Winnie — Pooh
29 Type measures
31 Noah's boat
34 Deed holders
35 Bellow
36 On in years
37 Farthest point in an orbit
39 "Tomorrow" tyke
40 Morse morsel
41 Grooving on
42 Mine entrance
43 Top-notch
44 Change
45 Otherwise
46 Saxophone need
48 Witnessed

▶ Yesterday's answer

Sudoku

	5		7	6	9		1	
1								9
		7				8		
6	4		5		8		7	1
				9				
9	2		3		1		8	4
		4				1		
7								2
	8		2	1	3		6	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

4	6	1	3	9	8	5	2	7
3	8	7	5	4	2	1	9	6
5	2	9	1	7	6	3	8	4
6	3	8	7	2	9	4	1	5
2	7	4	6	1	5	9	3	8
1	9	5	4	8	3	6	7	2
8	1	2	9	6	4	7	5	3
7	5	6	8	3	1	2	4	9
9	4	3	2	5	7	8	6	1

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

To Peaches
Hello — the Peaches I have written to (in vain it seems) probably wouldn't address as "Howdie". Also, he would likely not contact me at all, as is angry & it's complicated. Peaches, AKA Petal. I'm done trying anyway. Sorry for any confusion.
FROM ME

Oi!
Jeez you're cute! I honestly can't say that enough times. Someday I'll be the one planting kisses on those adorable cheeks.
FROM CAPTAIN

Matty
Where have you been? I haven't seen you for 3 days now. I miss seeing your face. I hope to see you tomorrow.
FROM R

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 The truth must be told and you are the one who must do the telling.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Your attitude will harden today and you will refuse to make the changes that others demand.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Spell out what it is you are planning to do over the next few days and make sure everyone knows that you are serious about your ambitions.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Let certain people know that you will no longer do their bidding.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 You're allowed to change your mind, and you're allowed to change your ambitions too.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 It will be easier for you to explain what you have been up to in recent weeks.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 You will find it ridiculously easy to get people to do what you desire today.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 The best way to win others round to your big idea is to come up with so many facts and figures that they simply cannot deny that you know what you are talking about.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 It's time to get serious about something you have been putting off for weeks or months.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Don't let worries and fears get the better of you.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 If you cannot handle something alone, ask for assistance.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. You will find it quite easy to get your message across to employers and other important people today.

SALLY BROMPTON

PETR DAVID JOSEK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caption contest

SETH HARRISON/THE JOURNAL NEWS/AP

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